"Distribution of the population among the western groups of the Copper Eskimos.

The camp at which we had arrived consisted of twenty large, comfortable snow huts quite close to a small island that had the Greenland-sounding name of Ahungahungâq (Asungasungâq), and after this island they called themselves Ahungahungârmiut. Most of them had come from Victoria Land, where up to recent years they had lived under the name of Piuvlermiut; but as caribou had gradually become rare in that region they moved over to the mainland, where they hunt in the interior between Great Bear Lake and the nearest coast north of Stapylton Bay. Among these were my host and hostess, but there were also some of the original mainland dwellers, and others again right up from Prince Albert Sound and Minto Inlet, so that in a most practical manner I was able to collect material from a wide area all concentrated in one village, thus saving a journey to Prince Albert Sound. I was particularly interested to meet the Kangerjuarmiut, or the people from Prince Albert Sound. Living as they did farthest away, the had often been described by the Umingmaktôrmiut in a more than fantastical manner; for instance they had told me that they were a bloodthirsty folk who often fought amongst themselves with bow and arrow, and that cannibalism was not uncommon among them. They often had frozen corpses to eat just as they have seals; to thaw them they were placed head downwards, and when their faces began to thaw it looked as if they smiled, I was told.

It was not many days before I ascertained that all these people had the same traditions

as the Musk Ox people, even to the smallest detail. Naturally, there were slight differences in their implement culture; but not only were their dialects very similar, but they knew each other's songs and the so-called ancient songs and spirituals; their incantations were often those that were known along the entire coast as far as up to Queen Maud Gulf. Whereas the Netsilik Eski-[70]mos may be looked upon as a separate tribe, all the so-called Kitlinermiut from Ogden Bay to Kent, Bathurst Inlet, Coronation Gulf, the lower part of Coppermine River, Dolphin and Union Strait, and all the people on Victoria Land are, as already stated, a single tribe who simply give themselves different names according to where they happen to be living. They usually are small bands. The villages to the east with their distribution of the population have already been referred to; here I will summarize the groups to the west, though with regard to their cycle of occupations it will be sufficient to refer to the most excellent and penetrating work of Diamond Jenness: The Life of the Copper Eskimos; what Jenness wrote there needs no repetition here.

There are the Agiarmiut, numbering 46 souls: 25 males and 21 females.

The Qorlortormiut, called after Bloody Falls on Coppermine River, totalling 88, of which 53 were males and 35 females. Infanticide is the cause of the great numerical inferiority of the females.

The Nuvungmiut in the region round Cape Krusenstern and Bernard Harbour; unfortunately I have no record of the numbers of the two sexes.

The Ahungahungârmiut, totalling 83: 46 males and 37 females. As already stated, this group comprises the people both from the mainland and from Victoria Land.

The Nägjugtôrmiut on Victoria Land, southeast of the Ahungahungârmiut, in all 30 people: 15 males and 15 females.

And finally the Kangerjuarmiut at Prince Albert Sound and the Kangarjuätjiarmiut at Minto Inlet, in all 122. In the case of these groups I was unable to obtain particulars of the sexes.

This summary of the western part of the district of the Copper Eskimos gives a population of about 439.

To this must be added the groups on the east: the Eqalugtôrmiut 98, (54 males and 44 females); Ahiarmiut 116 (70 males and 46 females); Umingmaktôrmiut 50 (27 males, 23 females), and the Kiluhigtormiut 113 (68 male and 45 females), in all 377.

This gives a grand total of about 816 Copper Eskimos, which corresponds well with Jenness' computation of between seven and eight hundred; it needs no saying that it will always be most difficult to indicate the exact numbers of Eskimo groups living such a nomadic life as they do. Yet it must doubtless be taken into consideration that one will probably arrive at a lower figure than the actual one, as it may easily happen that families out on a hunting trip are overlooked, whereas too many will never be indicated if my method of [71] census-taking is followed, i. e. that of writing down the names of every one in the group.

The so-called Eastern Eskimos end at Dolphin and Union Strait, the best sealing place I found on my whole journey; the whole stretch from Inman River to Baillie Island is only inhabited either by white trappers or by Eskimos who have come there from Alaska. With Baillie Island begins an entirely new Eskimo culture, closely associated with the hunting of marine mammals and the consequent higher material culture, where all the peoples who live east of this island are at the first stage of evolution to a coast people, and in reality very closely approach the Caribou Eskimos in the interior."

2: Stefansson--26 (1908-12) 1914 Copper Eskimo
101, 116, 161

"The Noahonirmiut hunt in winter on the ice of Dolphin and Union Strait in the neighborhood of Liston and Sutton Islands and spend the summer in general on the mainland south of those islands and north of Rae River. This is perhaps the smallest of the recognized subdivisions of the Copper Eskimo on the mainland. Their number is about twenty.

South of the Noahonirmiut in summer are found the Kanianermiut, so called because they inhabit the headwaters (Kangia) of the Pallirk which is their name for the Rae River. These people are also sometimes called the Uallirgmiut. In winter most of these seem to be out on the ice of Coronation Gulf. This is rather an indefinite subdivision sometimes confused with the Pallirmiut proper. The number may be about thirty."

2: Stefansson--27 (1908-1912) 1914 Copper Eskimo
101, 116, 161

"The Kogluktualugmiut are the people who frequent the neighborhood of Tree River (Kogluktualuk). They are also called Utkusiksaligmiut, the dwellers of the place where there is pot stone.... The population is about forty. This is the most easterly tribe actually visited by us on their own hunting grounds, although we saw and talked with individuals of other tribes as far east as the Kent Peninsula."

2: Stefansson--27-28 (1908-1912) 1914 Copper Eskimo
101, 116, 161

"Kogluktuaryumiut are in winter on the ice off Gray Bay. In spring they fish at the mouth of the Kogluktuaryuk River where Hanbury found some of them in July, 1903. This is the most westerly tribe seen by Hanbury on [28] his journey with the exception that he saw one family of the Pallirmiut on Dismal Lake. The population is probably about fifty or sixty."

2: Stefansson--30 (1908-1912) 1914 Copper Eskimo
116, 161, 221

"Late in March or early in April in each year. . . . [JMR: i. e., the Kanhiryuarmiut] commence their eastward migrations crossing the straits to Prince Albert Sound and moving east along the middle of the Sound. We found them to be approximately in the geographical center of the Sound on May 13, 1911, and it is probable that their migrations pass this point at the same time each year. In Prince Albert Sound the parties divide. In the summer of 1911, none of them were going south into the Colville Mountains, although certain years a few of them are in the habit of going there to meet the Haneragmiut. Six or seven families were going north into the mountains between Prince Albert Sound and Minto Inlet; a larger party still, were going southeast from the foot of the Sound to meet the Puiplirmiut and another good-sized party were going northeast from the foot of the Sound, location about forty miles inland, where native copper is most abundant and can most easily be had for the manufacture of knives, missile points, needles, and other articles. But the largest party of all, were going east up the Kagloryuak River to meet the Ekalluktogmiut near the center of Victoria Island. The population of this group is two hundred or a little over. When they were all together in the spring of 1910 they occupied thirty-three dwellings, as we learned from the examination of one of their deserted villages. When we visited them, six families had already separated themselves from the main body."

2: Stefansson--32 (1908-1912) 1914 Copper Eskimo
101, 116, 161

"The Nagyuktogmiut were the most easterly tribe of Victoria Islanders visited by us. They told us that the next tribe east of them were called the Kilusiktogmiut. I got no special idea of how numerous they are. I happened to see one or two members of the tribe among the Nagyuktogmiut, but in the press of other things I neglected the opportunity of making careful inquiries as to population. They told me, however, that so far as they knew, the entire south coast of Victoria Island was populated all the way around to Albert Edward Bay and in their opinion about as densely as that portion with which we were familiar. If that be so, it should mean from three to four hundred."

11: Stefansson--290 (1908-1912) 1913 Copper Eskimo
116, 161

"Population. In the village first visited (May 13) there were 27 dwellings. These were on the average much larger than among other groups (because skins are more plentiful?) In one house there were 9 persons and this was probably not the largest number. There were 41 married women--none single--as I found out in giving one needle to each tattooed woman. It was told there were many unmarried men, and children seemed numerous. This village therefore had over 150 persons. That of May 16 had 11. There are 4 houses that we did not see--that have moved to shore about north of the May 16 village. Estimate these at 15. This gives 176 for Prince Albert Sound group [as a minimum estimate--the true number is probably higher.] There are said to be the Tununirohirmiut north or northeast (?) of the Ekalluktogmiut. (Turnunirohirmiugok nunam turnuani inmata).(1) I could get no idea of how many they are; my informants are not even sure that they are on Victoria Island. These are said to have no bows and to dress only in seal.

"1. Translation: They are called 'the People of the Back Side' (of the land) because they are at the far end of (their) land (from the point of view of the rest of the people). In other words: 'People of the End of the Earth'. The name probably refers to the north end of Prince of Wales Island."

(They may be a fabulous people though I think not.) Besides these groups there are the people from the Nagyuktogmiut east, for whom I have no data. The west coast north of Minto Inlet and the north coast where the same [Prince Albert Sound] people sometimes reach it (Collinson Inlet?) are said uninhabited. This sea to the north is said not to thaw all summer, but the coast has caribou and there are seals on the ice. People sometimes reach it by sledding through rough country, 'but when the snow is hard yet' in a generally northern direction from the foot of Prince Albert Sound."

27:Chown & Lewis D-5 (1958)1959
ND8 Copper Eskimo ND8

[p.13, A]

The Blood Group Genes of the Copper Eskimo[1]

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121 143 [13] This report deals with the blood group and secretor genes of the so-called Copper Eskimo living on Victoria Island and the neighboring mainland, roughly between 100° and 120° west latitude and from the Arctic Circle to 72° north longitude. The report is part of a continuing study under the aegis of the National Museum of Canada of the populations which go to make up the population of Canada.

105 101 ●[16] The Copper Eskimo form an almost pure-bred population of about 1000 which has been stationary as to numbers since they were first studied by Jenness ('23) in 1913–16. Where they came from and how long they have lived here is unknown. The caribou and seal were their mainstays, providing food, clothing, fuel and housing materials, while in their territory was native copper which they used both for manufacture and for trade. Neither the east nor the west offered greater attractions, while the south was barred by Athapaskan-speaking Indians. It seems probable that they have occupied their present territory for a long time. On the other hand it is not to be imagined that they lived in complete isolation. Their neighbors 300 miles to the west about the delta of the Mackenzie knew of them, but only dimly; they spoke of them as "the people afar off." To the east and southeast they 175 had some slight contact with other Eskimo, and undoubtedly there was some intermar- 648 riage. With the Indians to the south they were apparently in a constant state of war, of small raids of extermination. So the earliest record we have of them is in Samuel Hearne's journal of his journey from Fort Prince of Wales on Hudson Bay to the mouth of the Coppermine River in 1771; in that venture the Indians who accompanied Hearne killed every Eskimo there encamped. Even so, from tales we were told, it is reasonable to believe that in other raids an occasional Indian woman

[1] [footnotes appear on p. 13B.—Analyst]